

The Weldon Project

3218 Glendale Blvd Los Angeles, CA 90039

www.theweldonproject.org

June 13, 2019

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW.
Washington, D.C. 20500

RE: Commutation Petition of Chauncey Hawkins

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of Amir Muhadith (previously known as Chauncey Hawkins and Loon) and his family, we strongly urge you to grant him a presidential commutation of sentence without delay.

The undersigned—musicians, actors, filmmakers, and community leaders strongly believe that justice necessitates the exercise of executive clemency in this case.

In 2013, Mr. Hawkins was sentenced to 14 years' imprisonment for a minor role in a non-violent drug case.¹ His sentence was subsequently lowered to 136 months (11 years, 4 months) as a result of the All Drugs Minus 2 Amendment by the U.S. Sentencing Commission in 2014. He has served over 7 years of his sentence. We believe this should be enough.

Chauncey Hawkins was born in Harlem, New York, and as a young adult he started his career in the music industry as a member of Mase's rap group Harlem World and then became part of P. Diddy's Bad Boy Records under the name Loon. He released his self-titled debut album *Loon* and made many guest appearances on songs of the R&B and hip hop genres.² But he is most known for his appearance on P. Diddy's hit songs "I Need A

¹ Former Bad Boy Rapper Loon Gets 14-Year Sentence, BET (July 19, 2013); <http://www.bet.com/news/music/2013/07/19/former-bad-boy-rapper-loon-gets-14-year-sentence.html>

² See [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Loon_\(rapper\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Loon_(rapper))

Girl” featuring Usher and “I Need A Girl Part 2” featuring Ginuwine.³ In 2004, Loon left Bad Boy Records to start his own label, Boss Up Entertainment.

In 2008, Mr. Hawkins decided to leave the music industry in pursuit of a more positive, spiritual life and began traveling the world as a motivational speaker, where he touched the lives of many.

We believe prisons should be reserved for those who pose a threat to society. You recently expressed concern for long prison sentences and stressed the importance of second chances for low-risk offenders. In commuting the prison sentence of Alice Johnson, you stated that “those who have paid their debt to society and worked hard to better themselves while in prison deserve a second chance.”⁴ Mr. Hawkins has done both.⁵

And while thousands of offenders will be released or see their sentences shortened as a result of the First Step Act, the new law does not benefit Mr. Hawkins. He has already served over 7 years of his sentence. This should be enough.

Mr. President—like Alice Johnson—Mr. Hawkins is deserving of your mercy and will be a better asset to the community as a free man where he intends to serve his community through the development of effective re-entry programs.

Please commute the remainder of his sentence without delay, so Chauncey can return home to his family and community, where he can use his talents to benefit others rather than simply being warehoused.

We respectfully ask you to grant him clemency.

Sincerely,

³ See I Need A Girl Part 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zXYb1OMhwBA> & I Need A Girl Part 2: (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zGUtrrXgzLI>)

⁴ Peter Baker, *Alice Marie Johnson Is Granted Clemency by Trump After Push by Kim Kardashian West*, THE NEW YORK TIMES, June 6, 2018

⁵ Notably, Mr. Hawkins’ sentence for minimal involvement in a drug conspiracy is longer than what the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines recommend for rape & kidnapping.

Weldon Angelos

Former Music Producer; Criminal Justice Reform Advocate (credits include production for Snoop Dogg, 2Pac's Outlawz, and many more)

Faith Evans

Grammy-Award Winning Singer, Songwriter, Record Producer & Actress

Mutah "Napoleon" Beale

Former member of Tupac Shakur's rap group, *The Outlawz* (credits include appearances on albums *Me Against the World*, *All Eyez On Me*, *Makaveli*, *Gang Related Soundtrack*, *Still I Rise*, *Until the End of Time* & *Better Dayz*)

Kevin Garnett

Former 15-Time All-Star & NBA Champion

Scott Budnick

Movie Producer (credits include the *Hangover* movies, *Old School*, *War Dogs*); Founder One Community LLC, Founder of the Anti-Recidivism Coalition (ARC)

Jason Flom

Founder & CEO of Lava Records; Former CEO of Virgin Records; Former Chairman & CEO of Atlantic Records; Former Chairman & CEO of Capitol Music Group

Damon "Dame" Dash

Co-founded Roc-A-Fella Records with Jay Z & Co-Creator of Rocawear Clothing; Music Producer; Actor; Founder of Dame Dash TV

Steve Lobel

Recording Artist Manager; Manager of music producer Scott Storch; CEO of A-2-Z Entertainment (roster of clients include Scott Storch, Eazy-E, Fat Joe, Common, Missy Elliot, Big Pun, Bone Thugz N Harmony, Steven Adler of Guns N' Roses)

Benzino

VH1 Reality Star (*Love & Hip Hop*); Founder of *The Source Magazine* & *Hip Hop Weekly*; Creator of The Source Awards; Recording Artist

Baby Bash

Platinum-selling recording artist (credits include hit singles “Suga Suga,” “Baby, I’m Back” featuring Akon & “Cyclone”)

Bre-Z

Recording Artist & Actress (credits include a prominent role on Fox’s television series *Empire*)

Stevie J

Grammy-Award Winning Record Producer; Television Personality (production credits include Puff Daddy’s *No Way Out* album & Notorious B.I.G.’s *Life After Death* album)

Freeway

Roc Nation Recording Artist (credits include appearances on “Roc-A-Fella Billionaires” featuring Jay Z, “1-900-Hustler” featuring Jay Z)

Kevin McCall

Grammy-nominated Singer, Rapper, Songwriter & Actor (credits include “Deuces” featuring Chris Brown & Tyga; formerly signed to *Chris Brown Entertainment*)

Dante Thomas

Platinum-selling Recording Artist (credits include international hit single “Miss California” featuring Pras)

Alice Marie Johnson

Presidential Clemency Recipient; Criminal Justice Reform Advocate

Jeremy Meeks

Model

Michael Goldstein

Music producer, filmmaker (credits include soundtrack to the Matthew McConaughey movie *Lincoln Lawyer*, *City of Lies* & *Freeway: Crack in the System*)

Jessica Jackson Sloan

Co-director of #cut50

Marc Levin

Emmy-Award Winning Film Director

Erik Nielson

Author; Associate Professor of Liberal Arts, University of Richmond; Co-Author of *Rap on Trial* (well known expert in the use of rap music as evidence in criminal trials.)

Abou Thiam (Bu)

Music Executive; Former Vice President of A&R, Def Jam Records; (credits include Rihanna's "Talk That Talk" & "Loud")

Mark Osler

Professor of Law, University of St. Thomas; Founder of the Country's first Clemency Clinic

Carmichael "Stokey" Cannady

CEO of The Stokey Project; Community Organizer

Special ENT

Recording Artist; Manager of Hip Hop Artist Busta Rhymes

Amy Povah

CAN-DO Foundation

Glenn E. Martin

President & Founder of GEM Trainers; Founder of JustLeadershipUSA

* *Affiliations provided for identification only.*